

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on June 3, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 5 and 7 –
5 20 and has objected to claim 6.

Applicants' interpretation of Examiner's comments indicates that the Examiner
recognizes the novelty of the subject invention when it specifically describes the gears and the
fact that the outlet end is disposed above a housing portion of the marine propulsion device in
which the gears are disposed. These are the most basic elements described in claims 5 and 6, as
10 originally filed.

If that interpretation of Examiner's comments is accurate, applicants do not fully
understand why claim 16 wouldn't be allowable in combination with the elements recited in
claim 14. Similarly, applicants do not fully understand why claim 20 would not be allowable in
combination with the elements described in claim 19.

15 Notwithstanding these questions, applicants have decided to amend the claims as
described above in order to place the remaining claims in proper and allowable form.

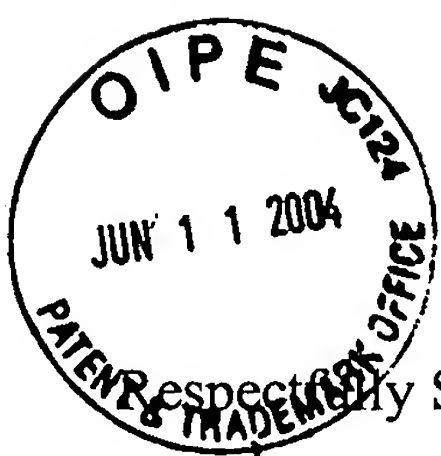
Claim 1 has been amended to now contain the basic elements previously described in
claims 5 and 6 as originally filed. Accordingly, claims 5 and 6 have been canceled.

20 Claim 14 has been amended to now contain the basic element previously described in
claim 16. Accordingly, claim 16 has been canceled and claim 17 has been amended to be
dependent on claim 15 instead of on claim 16.

Claim 19 has been amended to contain the basic element previously described in claim
20. Accordingly, claim 20 has been canceled.

25 In their amended form, all of the claims now contain a description relating to the gears
and to the fact that the conduit has an outlet end that is disposed above a housing portion of the
marine propulsion device. Applicants believe that this now describes the subject invention in
terminology that the Examiner has found to be allowable.

In view of the changes made to the claims of the subject patent application and in further
view of the comments above, applicants respectfully request Examiner's reconsideration of the
30 subject patent application and expeditious allowance of claims 1 – 4, 7 – 15, and 17 – 19.



Respectfully Submitted,

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